

Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the Office action dated August 1, 2007. Prior to entry of this response, claims 1-20 were pending in the application. By way of this response, claims 2, 4-6, and 9-12 are amended and claim 1 is cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, and 13-20 are allowed. Claim 1 is hereby cancelled without prejudice and all other rejected claims are hereby amended to depend from allowed claim 7. Thus, all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

Formal Matters

The oath or declaration is objected to as being defective. A newly executed declaration is herewith submitted. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 1, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,617,829 (Bidner), claims 1-4, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,839,409 (Denz), claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denz in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,536,414 (Hasegawa), and claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denz in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,337,715 (Gonzales, Jr.). Applicant respectfully traverses each rejection, but herein cancels claim 1 without prejudice and amends all other rejected claims so as to depend from an allowed claim, thus rendering such rejections moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Response, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

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